made in this regard by the AISSF (Manjeet) at Amritsar on Feb., 2, 1990 According to the Government of Punjab it could not elicit substantial public support. The State Government are keeping a close watch on the situation with a view to taking appropriate action as and when required.

Evacuation of IB Officials in Kashmir

142. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government had taken a decision on the 14th January, 1990 to evacuate the families of the Intelligence Bureau officials posted in Kashmir Valley;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the number of such families that have been evacuated so far?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Searches by para-military forces in J&K

143. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that paramilitary forces had conducted searches of homes, hiding places and shelter places of suspected terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir from 1st January 1990 to 15th February, 1990; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 100 suspected sub-versive elements have been apprehended Some amount of arms and ammunition have also been seized.

Complaints about alleged misconduct by Indian Council General in U.S.A.

144. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints from Indian expatriates settled in the USA regarding misconduct of the Indian Consul General in New York for allegedly abusing his position; and

(b) whether Government have got the complaints looked into; if so, the finding thereof and the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is under verification.

Recent initiative by Pakistan for talks on Kashmir

145. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news item which appeared in the Hindustan Times' dated 22nd February, 1990 to the effect that Pakistan is willing to initiate talks on Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government's response was made known through a statement issued by the Official Spokesman on 23-2-1990. A copy of the statement is laid on the table.

Statement

We have seen the Pakistan Prime Minister's statement of February 21 where she indicates that Pakistan is

prepared for a dialogue to resolve the question of Jammu & Kashmir on the basis of the Shimla Agreement.

India has always believed that all differences between our two countries can and should be settled peacefully through bilateral discussions in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Shimla Agreement. Pakistan has, unfortunately, been showing diminishing commitment to this while stepping up support to terrorism and intervention in our internal affairs.

Regrettably, we also continue to hear different voices from Pakistan. We have noticed Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yakub Khan's statement in which he has said that Pakistan is keeping "all options open.". We have also seen a call and a "warning" from the so-called President of the POK People's Party, Sardar Ibrahim, to raise a one lakh strong commando force to launch an armed attack on Kashmir.

A dialogue would be purposeful and helpful only if Pakistan desists from such blatant interference and also refrains from vitiating the atmosphere. It is , therefore, imperative that a proper climate be created in which meaningful discussions can be held. For our part, we remain committed to restoring our dialogue with Pakistan so that we can biuld a friendly and cooperative relationship with this important neighbour. We are aware that the people of Pakistan, as much as the people of India, desire peace. We wish to assure the people of Pakistan that we have nothing but the friendliest of feelings towards them.

United Liberation Front of Assam

146. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:
SHRIMATI SATYA BAHIN:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the United Liberation Front of Assam is making life of non-Assamese difficult in various cities in the state, resulting in a threat to the integrity of the country;

(b) if so. the number of persons killed/injured so far by ULFA;

(c) whether it is a fact that the ULFA members have also been extorting money from the non-Assamese people;

(d) if so, the details in this regard. citywise; and

(e) what action is being taken by Government to check such activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMAD SAYEED): (a) Government have received reports about incidents of extortion, kidnapping, intimidation, and also murder by the activists of the ULFA. The victims are mainly members of the trading communities, but include Assamese also.

(b) So far, 73 persons are reported to have been killed and 154 injured in the various acts attributed to ULFA.

(c) and (d) Since it is rarely that the victims report to police about extortion, no precise information in this regard is available.

(e) The Government have been providing all assistance and cooperation to the State Government and have advised them to contain the activities of ULFA.

दूरदर्शन केन्द्र, वाराणसी पर दूसरा चैनल

147. **डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय** : क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि दूरदर्शन केन्द्र, वाराणसी (उ० प्र०) पर दूसरे चैनल की सुविधा प्रदान किए जाने के संबंध में अभी तक कितनी प्रगति हुई है ?